

Consumer Protection Tips from Medicare

Protect all personal information, including your Medicare number.

Don't give out your personal information, such as Social Security number, bank account numbers or credit card numbers. Plans are not allowed to request such personal information in their marketing activities. They can't come to your home uninvited and can't ask for payment over the web. They must send you a bill.

Look for the seal.

Medicare prescription drug plans will have this "Medicare-Approved" seal on their materials.



Timing is key. Medicare Prescription Drug Plans can't begin enrolling people with Medicare until November 15, 2005.

Know the "enrollment rules."

You can call, mail or enroll online to get the voluntary coverage – so you can control your information.

If you think someone is misusing your personal information, call

- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048), or
- the Fraud Hotline of the HHS Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-447-8477 (TTY users should call 1-800-377-4950), or
- the Federal Trade Commission's ID Theft hotline at 1-877-438-4338 to make a report (TTY users should call 1-866-653-4261).